

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2000

Present: Billis, Bayless, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: Bendall (arrived at 7:05 p.m.).

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Judy Horton; Thomas Holcomb; Don Runyon; Fred & Betty Bates; Larry LeCureux; Shirley Sanderson; Gary Schooley; Larry Friess; Millie Taute; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Stephanie Wuttke, The Independent; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SPECIAL MEETING: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the minutes of the previous special meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Councilperson Bendall arrived at 7:05 p.m. Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to approve the agenda by replacing Item No. 3) Mayoral Appointment to the Corunna Planning Commission, Term to Expire December 31, 2001 with Consider McCurdy Park Grant Application and replacing Item No. 4) Closed Session - City Manager's Evaluation with Consider McArthur Street Water Main and Roadway Upgrade.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Brian Preston introduced himself and informed council he works for Representative Larry Julian. Mr. Preston stated Representative Julian wanted him to report to council that he has looked into the situation at the corner of Shiawassee Street and M-21 and the Michigan Department of Transportation was not previously excited about installing a turn lane at that location, but they are reconsidering the situation and are looking at different options. Ms. Hitchcock stated she was glad to hear that because the Michigan Department of Transportation has not been willing to do anything with that situation. Mr. Preston encouraged Ms. Hitchcock and council to continue to stay in contact with Representative Julian's office. Ms. Hitchcock advised there are four lanes going north and three lanes going south and they do not line up which causes a lot of traffic problems at the intersection. She further advised she called Representative Julian's office last week and asked if there was anything that could be done from his office. Councilperson Dumond stated unfortunately they are like all of the rest and when there are two or three people killed then something gets done. Ms. Hitchcock stated she had a problem with that thinking.

CONSIDER MITCHELL FIELD ACCOMMODATIONS: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to go with option number four and have the Stu Coutts restroom keys available to a softball commission representative to unlock & lock the restrooms during the season and to only have one portable toilet. Councilperson Runyan asked who would be responsible for the cost of the portable toilet. Ms. Hitchcock advised the cost has always been budgeted in the city's budget. Councilperson Runyan stated if Mitchell Field is a separate entity then why is the city billed. Councilperson Hornus stated the city owns the facility. Ms. Hitchcock stated the city has certain responsibilities. She further stated she has found documentation that shows the city has taken on the responsibility since 1990. Councilperson Ockerman stated Larry Friess as well as Gary Schooley were part of the program when the field was first set up. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the field was set up so it would not place any burden on the citizens of Corunna, and if the expenses were supposed to be paid for by the fees that were collected. Mr. Friess advised the expenses were supposed to be paid with the fees that were collected. The Mitchell family paid for the ball field, but Mr. Mitchell stated he would not pay to upkeep the ball field and the upkeep was turned over to the city. Mr. Friess advised that was in the agreement when the city accepted Mr. Mitchell's money. Mr. Friess further advised the ball teams were charged money for umpires and stuff like that. He also advised there used to be a person who took care of the ball fields and he was paid out of the budget the city received from the ball teams. Mr. Friess stated when the person who took care of the field got up in age, the care of the ball field was turned over to the city. The city employees would go down to the ball fields before they went to work or after they got out of work to line or mow the field. He further stated the city received money from the ball field to pay the city employees for the work they did. He also stated the Stu Coutts bathrooms were always used and no one ever asked for a port-a-john. There was discussion about it at one time, but it was decided that it was not worth it. Gary Schooley stated there were

situations when people started using the dugouts as urinals. The softball league got involved and got port-a-johns, which eliminated the problem of using the dugouts as a bathroom. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not believe the scenario Mr. Schooley described and he was not picking on Mr. Schooley when he said that. There ought to be some control by both the individuals and the people in charge not to allow that to happen. Councilperson Ockerman further stated port-a-johns cost the city money. There are bathrooms available and it does not make any sense to say people will do something if a bathroom is not provided. He also stated if a person could not walk to the bathroom to relieve himself then maybe he does not belong down there. Mr. Schooley advised the Stu Coutts bathrooms were getting destroyed because they were left unlocked.

Councilperson Ockerman stated someone is being paid to be in charge at the ball field and the person in charge could lock and unlock the bathrooms. Mr. Friess stated the only vandalism he recalls is seeing toilet paper stuffed down the toilets. He further stated the police department was supposed to lock the bathrooms when everyone was done.

Councilperson Ockerman stated if the league director would be down there then he should be given keys to unlock and lock the bathrooms. However, if the bathrooms were vandalized while the league was in play, it would cost the city more money to repair them than a port-a-john would cost. Councilperson Bendall stated she did not feel the league director could control everyone who might vandalize the restrooms and the city was not ready to have someone there to monitor it. Councilperson Ockerman stated there are other bathrooms in the park that are open and no one is watching them either.

Councilperson Bendall stated she was in favor of having one port-a-john at Mitchell Fields. Councilperson Runyan asked if the cost of the port-a-johns was \$600 for the season. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Councilperson Runyan stated if there is vandalism, there might be \$700 of work to do. He further stated he did not feel it was right to have a unisex port-a-john. It was not fair for the ladies to have to share a bathroom with men. Councilperson Ockerman asked where the proposed port-a-john would be located. Ms. Hitchcock advised it would be located at the end of the fenced in area. Councilperson Ockerman asked how much of a walk it would be from there to the Stu Coutts restroom. Ms. Hitchcock advised across the parking lot. Mr. Schooley advised the softball league uses the ball fields on Tuesday and Thursday and the little league uses them on Monday and Wednesday. He asked what would be done on the nights the little league uses the field. Councilperson Dumond asked if anyone was in charge of the little league while they use the field. Mr. Schooley advised the person in charge is not down there every night. There are several fields in town that are used. Mr. Friess asked if there would be one port-a-john at the ball field instead of two. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes.

Councilperson Runyan stated the last vandalism cost was \$1,400 and asked what the city's deductible was. Ms. Hitchcock advised \$1,000. Councilperson Bayless stated after hearing that the little league uses the ball fields two nights per week, and if no one is there to unlock the restrooms, then one port-a-john would not be adequate. Council is going to have to figure out a way to open the Stu Coutts restrooms for them or have two port-a-johns. He further stated he did not see where option number four would work very well for the little league. He also stated he was leaning towards option number one and leaving it as it is unless someone can come up with another scenario. Councilperson Runyan asked if there was any reason the police department could not unlock and lock the restrooms on Monday and Wednesday. Ms. Hitchcock advised there would be no

guarantee that they would be able to if something else was going on. She further advised on Monday and Wednesday the person in charge of the little league program could stop at the ballfield to open the restrooms and lock them later. Councilperson Bayless stated since this is the end of the season, the situation could be investigated further before a decision is made. Councilperson Runyan stated he believed there was a motion on the floor. Mayor Billis asked Councilperson Dumond if he wanted to withdraw his motion. Councilperson Dumond stated in lieu of the other alternatives he would withdraw his motion. Councilperson Hornus then withdrew his support. Runyan moved, Hornus seconded to table this item until further options are available.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Bendall, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO AMBULANCE AGREEMENT

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE: Councilperson Bendall asked if the representative should be a council representative. Ms. Hitchcock advised her personal opinion was yes because city funds were being spent. Councilperson Runyan stated there are some changes they want done and he has no idea what the changes are. Councilperson Bayless advised the proposal is to start the negotiating process. The city received a 60-day notification letter of intent to renegotiate the contract. He further advised there are no changes to the current contract. There are some things that are out of date and there have been changes in the state law so the ambulance board would like to update the contract to incorporate those changes as well. He also advised as president of the ambulance board, he would present the proposed draft to the council and townships. Councilperson Bayless stated he would be an ambulance board representative during the negotiations and not a councilperson. He further stated he felt the city should have someone present to represent the city during the negotiations. Councilperson Runyan asked Councilperson Bayless if there was a specific person sitting on the council that would be more qualified than another. Councilperson Bayless advised he did not have a preference. Anybody who had the time could do this, and the negotiations would probably start sometime in November. Councilperson Ockerman asked council if anyone had a desire to sit on the negotiating board. Mayor Billis asked who was representing the townships. Councilperson Bayless advised he did not know. Mayor Billis asked if a township board member would be on the committee. Councilperson Bayless advised yes. He further stated the ambulance board is made up of members from all of the governmental units except for one who has elected not to send a member. Mayor Billis stated if something is brought back to council for a vote then Councilperson Bayless might have a conflict of interest since he would be wearing two hats. Councilperson Bayless stated if a councilperson is uncomfortable with him voting on the issue when it comes to council then he would step aside. Ms. Hitchcock advised he would not be gaining anything personally so there would be no reason for him to step aside. Councilperson Bayless stated the ambulance service does a valuable service in saving lives of the citizens of Corunna and he wanted to make sure the ambulance service is viable and will stay in business. Mayor Billis stated since Councilperson Bayless is the council's representative to the ambulance board, he would be a councilperson first and a commissioner second.

He further stated he thought Councilperson Bayless would do a fine job of representing the city. Councilperson Bayless advised he would do it. Councilperson Ockerman agreed with the mayor that Councilperson Bayless was appointed to the board as the city's representative. Councilperson Bayless stated he did not want anyone to think there was a conflict of interest. Councilperson Dumond agreed with Councilperson Ockerman and Mayor Billis that Councilperson Bayless would be more familiar with any changes that need to be done. Councilperson Runyan stated if the other board members disagree then Councilperson Bayless could come back and ask council to appoint someone else. Councilperson Hornus stated he did not think there would be a problem. Bendall moved, Hornus seconded to appoint Al Bayless as the representative to the Ambulance Agreement Negotiating Committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER MCCURDY PARK GRANT APPLICATION: Ms. Hitchcock gave an overview of the park grant. The city had a break down of \$20,000 for city contribution, \$10,000 for donations and \$9,242 in donated labor. She further explained the city lost a few points on the grant application by not detailing the breakdown of donations and donated labor. The state needs a specific dollar amount in writing or a commitment from council that they would match the 75/25 percent grant. She also explained the state has said that category could move up to an exceptional rating from a good rating just by saying the city General Fund would cover the balance if the city does not get enough donations. Ms. Hitchcock advised she talked with several foundations in the area and since they make their determinations in December they told her to make sure an application is submitted. She has also talked to some private individuals who have stated they would make a very sizable donation. Ms. Hitchcock asked how high of a priority the restrooms were. Council advised very high. Councilperson Runyan asked if the restrooms would cost \$186,000. Ms. Hitchcock advised she thought the amount was around \$156,000. Councilperson Bendall asked if the money had to be moved from General Fund right away. Ms. Hitchcock advised no. The project would probably start in the summer and it would be one of those projects that would fall at the end and beginning of a budget year. She further advised she did not see a problem with the city coming up with the money from other sources since the community has been very supportive of the park. Councilperson Runyan asked why council was acting on this now and not at the time the grant application was submitted. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city does not have a full-time Parks and Recreation Director who would be doing that and it was her interpretation that the letter of support from Zonta was enough. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the city would lose any money from Zonta or others if a statement from council was made. Ms. Hitchcock advised no. Councilperson Ockerman asked if a motion was needed. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Bendall moved, Bayless seconded to support the McCurdy Park Pavilion/Restroom Project by increasing the matching contribution from the General Fund to twenty-five percent (25%) if the stated donations and donated labor are not secured. Councilperson Runyan asked what the dollar amount was. Ms. Hitchcock advised \$39,242. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Councilperson Bayless stated if the

donations fall short then the balance could be budgeted into the next budget. Councilperson Dumond stated there could be more donations. Ms. Hitchcock stated it might be possible that there be more donations, which would reduce the city's General Fund obligation or the project could be increased to include a path or something along that line. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city was pledging \$39,000 and if \$31,000 was budgeted. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Councilperson Runyan asked if the budget was being amended. Councilperson Bayless advised no. Mayor Billis asked if there was a time frame on when the application had to be in. Ms. Hitchcock advised the deadline for the second consideration is October 20. Mayor Billis asked if there was a date when the city would hear from the state. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, but she would call the state tomorrow to find out.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: Runyan.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER MCARTHUR STREET WATER MAIN AND ROADWAY UPGRADE:

Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to approve the McArthur Street water main and roadway upgrade at the cost of \$70,985. Councilperson Ockerman stated it was brought to council's attention at the workshop the other night that the city needs to replace the water main on McArthur Street and the money would be taken from the water fund. He further stated the city was trying to increase the water pressure by going to a twelve-inch water main instead of a four-inch main. Ms. Hitchcock advised only the water volume would be increased. Councilperson Ockerman stated the engineers need an answer before December 15 on whether to proceed, and the amount needed would be budgeted out of next year's budget so no budget amendment was needed. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the work would be done at the time of the streetscape. Ms. Hitchcock advised it would be a change order to Perrin's job and not the streetscape. The engineers wanted it done to coincide with the streetscape project. Councilperson Ockerman stated five different items were discussed at the workshop. He talked to Mr. Crawford privately afterwards and it was Mr. Crawford's recommendation that the city needed to move on this quickly. Councilperson Runyan stated there is a possibility of creating an industrial park on Parmenter Road and the water main currently ends on Comstock Street at M-71. Ms. Hitchcock stated part of the pipe that was removed on McArthur Street was pitted and not of very good quality and replacing the line should stop a lot of water breaks. Councilperson Bendall asked if the money would be taken out of the water fund. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Anything that happens in the water department is paid through the water fund and anything that happen in the sewer department is paid through the sewer fund.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Tom Holcomb, Converse Street, stated there was previous discussion about the restroom situation at Mitchell Field and something was mentioned about having the police department lock up that restroom and he was concerned with that. It might seem like a minor issue, but if the police department does that and then they are told to do something else, the city is taking the police department away from doing the job they are trained for and it did not make any sense at all. He also stated he does not want to see the police department talents used for something else. He would rather have the police department concentrate on what they are trained for as opposed to locking restrooms. Councilperson Ockerman stated the police department constantly checks doors and they currently lock the bathroom doors in the park during the summer. This city is not the first city to use their police department in that fashion. He further stated the officers have cars and are on the road anyway. They also deliver council packets to the council people and it would be making good use of something the city already has. He also stated it would not be that much of an inconvenience. Mr. Holcomb stated he understood that, but he wants to make sure the police department is not tied up doing 1,000 little things instead of having the officers patrol the neighborhood.

Don Runyon stated he felt it was more important for the police department to lock the bathrooms instead of telling people their garbage is sitting on the curb. He further stated he wondered why the city manager's evaluation was in closed session. He asked if it was against the law to do the evaluation in closed session. Mayor Billis stated if he was not mistaken, the closed meeting is for union negotiating. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, a closed meeting can be requested for performance related issues. Councilperson Ockerman stated council could not go into closed session to discuss the city manager's salary but she has every right for her job performance to be discussed during closed session. Mr. Runyon asked what the city had to do with the township regarding the ambulance because he thought it was a separate board. Councilperson Bayless stated the Corunna Area Ambulance serves the areas of Caledonia Township, New Haven Township, Venice Township, Shiawassee Township and the City of Corunna. He further stated seventy to eighty percent of the calls are actually in Caledonia Township. He also stated a member from each city and township sits on the board, which makes all of the decisions for the ambulance service. Councilperson Bayless advised the ambulance service is run like a business and money is put away for big expenses such as a new ambulance and equipment.

Larry Friess stated he read in the paper after the last council meeting that a gentleman in Durand was mad at the city council because council only went half way on helping the Red Cross with the tap-in fee so he donated the rest of the money. Mr. Friess further stated maybe the same gentleman would like to donate money for the park bathrooms.

Don Runyon suggested having the bicycle cop unlock the Stu Coutts bathrooms.

Judy Horton stated she thought Cheryl Kribs was supposed to talk about the Halloween activities tonight. Councilperson Bayless stated he would discuss them during the round table discussion.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Bendall, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:24 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK